

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) voted against another in a series of wasteful spending bills that will do nothing to create jobs and only send our nation further into debt. Democratic leadership pushed through an amended version of H.R. 2847, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act by a vote of 217-201.

“The title of this bill is a complete and total misnomer as it will not help out of work Floridians find jobs. Once again, Speaker Pelosi and President Obama have chosen winners and losers and Florida has come out on the short end of the stick,” said Rooney. “Four states: California, Illinois, Louisiana and Washington will be receiving over half of the funds available for infrastructure and construction projects. At a time when Florida’s unemployment is over 11 percent and outpacing the national average, this short-sighted decision is unjustifiable.”

“Last February, the House passed the \$1 trillion stimulus package. Democrats touted that the stimulus would create between three and four million new jobs. However, the stimulus bill failed to meet its objective and unemployment is now at 9.7 percent and the unemployment level has increased by more than 3 million jobs since February. This legislation preaches the same lofty goals as the stimulus package, which facts show, has not put Floridians back to work.

“In addition to not creating jobs and leaving Florida out of the mix on infrastructure dollars, this bill simply kicks that can down the road and doesn’t include a vital permanent fix to stave off the cuts in Medicare reimbursements to doctors.”

Congressman Rooney supports working in a bipartisan manner to find real solutions, not political gimmicks, to get Americans back to work. That is why he supports an alternative plan that would create 6.2 million jobs – double what was promised by the President and the Democratic leadership in their stimulus bill – at half the cost. This plan would stop over-burdensome federal regulations, contains no job-killing tax increases and would empower small business with necessary capital to reinvest and hire more workers and finally it would freeze domestic discretionary non-defense spending.

Job creation must come from private industry, not by further expanding government programs. He believes we must tear down self-imposed government obstacles to economic growth.

“Another government handout is not going to create jobs – only immediate and permanent tax relief for working families, small businesses and family farms will help incentivize businesses to start hiring again,” commented Rooney.

In what has become an unfortunate and common operating procedure, the Democratic majority allowed only a few hours for members to read the multiple issue bill before voting and prohibited any amendments from being considered.